

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) An image data management apparatus comprising:

property information obtaining means for obtaining property information of an image data set to be managed;

security processing method setting means for setting a security processing method for each of items of the property information;

security processing means for carrying out security processing on each of the items of the property information according to the security processing method that has been set;

attachment means for attaching the property information having been subjected to the security processing to the image data set; and

image data storage means for storing the image data set attached with the property information, wherein

said property information obtaining means includes at least one of image analysis means for obtaining the property information of the image data set by analyzing the image data set and input means for inputting items constituting the property information, the input means being used by a user to input the items of the property information.

2. (Original) An image data management apparatus as defined in Claim 1, further comprising:

attachment decision means for setting whether each of the items of the property information is attached to the image data set; and

property information storage means for storing, in relation to the image data set, the item or items of the property information that have been set to be not attached, wherein

the attachment means attaches only the remaining items of the property information that have been set to be attached.

3. (Original) An image data management apparatus as defined in Claim 1, wherein the security processing method that can be set by the security processing method setting means refers to no processing, encryption processing, or electronic watermark processing.

4. (Currently Amended) An image data management apparatus as defined in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the image data storage means and the property information storage means are connected to each other via a network.

5. (Original) An image data management apparatus as defined in any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the property information includes an item representing a parameter of image processing to be carried out on the image data set.